



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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## 2005 Earth Day Message

We are a nation at war. The need to protect our homeland has never been clearer. To ensure America's security, the Army is aggressively transforming into a relevant and ready strategic joint force with expeditionary capabilities. These capabilities enable us to win battles today while we prepare for the challenges of the future.

The American Soldier stands as the centerpiece of this effort.

Soldiers are the Army's most precious resource. They can be most effective only when we provide them the means to prepare for action. We must provide them a realistic training environment in which they can test their equipment, hone their skills, and prepare for combat. They deserve a healthy environment in which they and their families can live safely. We must nurture the environment with an eye toward partnerships so that our neighbors understand and support our mission.

The Army's Strategy for the Environment establishes a long-range vision that focuses efforts that sustain our mission. For success in the global war on terrorism we must carry out our responsibilities for the long-term. The land, air, and water resources we work and train on are vital to both our present and future missions. We must use those resources wisely in a manner that reflects our devotion to duty and respect for the needs of tomorrow's Soldiers.

Over the past 35 years, the Army has joined the Nation in celebrating Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Army's Earth Day theme this year, "Sustaining the Environment for a Secure Future," reflects our commitment to meet the current and future needs of Soldiers, their families, and the Nation through the sound stewardship of environmental resources. This commitment belongs to every member of the Army team – every Soldier and family member, every retiree and veteran, and every civilian employee and contractor. Success requires that we each do our part.

Again this year, Earth Day is an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to stewardship of the environment and partnering with local communities to Sustain the Environment for a Secure Future. I urge that you join the Army family in celebrating our long history and many achievements in caring for our environment.

Peter J. Schoomaker  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Francis J. Harvey  
Secretary of the Army